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28 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ch/C/RR
THRU : Ch/D/E/RR
FROM : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
SUBJECT : Downgrading of COCOM Documents - Progress Report No. 1

A survey of CG/COCOM/CHINCOM documents has been undertaken in this Division in connection with the proposed downgrading of such documents from Secret to Confidential. All such documents in numbered series now carry a Secret classification. TOPOL 812 of 10 December indicated that Washington would provide within 90 days a list of COCOM and CHINCOM documents for which Secret classification should be retained. There follows a progress report on this survey and suggested additional work to be undertaken by CIA in this matter.

A. Progress Report on Survey of CG/COCOM/CHINCOM Documents

- 1) A numerical card index of all CG/COCOM/CHINCOM documents available to this Division has been established and an effort made to assemble all missing documents in a central D/E/RR file.
- 2) Selection of Tentative Criteria - The following criteria were tentatively selected for purposes of this survey: (1) Such documents are considered to incorporate intelligence of Secret classification if they include information on: Soviet bloc demand/supply position in specific goods and services; strategic significance of specific goods or services as applicable to Soviet needs;

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clandestine, illegal or unreported trade in strategic commodities with the Soviet bloc; intelligence sources and methods, and application, particularly with respect to specific problems in the export control field; and, gaps in intelligence on the Soviet bloc.

(2) Such documents are considered to incorporate intelligence of not higher than Confidential classification when they are concerned solely or principally with: commodity definitions and quota determinations; general expressions of PC attitudes on various control problems and review of control systems; statistics on trade in specific commodities which provide only information on quantity, volume and unit measurements; and, procedural and administrative matters.

3) Identification and Description of Documents - Ten categories of CG/COCOM/CHINCOM documents were identified and described (See Appendix A), with the following findings:

a) The following categories of documents have been tentatively determined not to contain intelligence of Secret classification as defined above: COCOM Statistics; COCOM Secretariat Papers (Documents); COCOM indexes (D Series); CHINCOM Statistics; and, CHINCOM Secretariat Papers.

b) Two categories of documents - Consultative Group Papers and CHINCOM Sub-C Series - are considered as incorporating intelligence of both Secret and Confidential classification.

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c) Three categories of documents - COCOM Documents, CHINCOM Documents, and COCOM Sub-C Series - have been sampled for the purpose of estimating additional work required in reviewing the total number of such documents available. On the basis of this 10 percent sampling it is estimated that not less than 5 working days of one analyst (GS-12 or above), in addition to full-time employment of one GS-5 clerk, will be required to complete the survey.

4) Executive Order 10501 and NATO documents have been examined to determine the relevancy of classification definitions therein to the downgrading proposal (ref: Paris POLTO 1385, 22 January 1955). The CIA Classification Control Officer has been consulted on this point and on the advisability of creating a CIA Panel to consider this project.

5) Conversations have been held with representatives of FOA/MDAC, State (OIR and EDS), Defense (OSD), and Commerce to determine the position of these agencies in this proposal and to obtain information on availability of documents. Within CIA, this matter has been discussed informally with OCD, the CIA Library, FI, and SO.

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B. Conclusions

On the basis of this preliminary survey, it is concluded that CIA cannot concur in an across-the-board downgrading of the documents in question. Since this downgrading project has as its ultimate purpose "economy, greater speed transmission and greater ease and convenience storage and handling..." (TOPOL 812), it is further concluded that this purpose would be served and intelligence sources and methods protected by a system such as follows: Documents issued prior to a cut-off date to be established would be re-classified either Secret or Confidential by categories on the basis of content. Henceforth, only certain kinds of information would be included in Secret and Confidential categories on the basis of criteria to be established by COCOM.

C. Recommendation

It is recommended that a panel consisting of the CIA Classification Control Officer, and the Assistant Classification Control Officers of ORR, OCD, FI and SO be created to work with a D/E representative to: study the results of this survey, establish Agency responsibility for determining the classification of documents involved, and make appropriate recommendations to FOA/MDAC, the Department of State and the USDEL Paris.

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APPENDIX A

Description of Document Categories

1. Consultative Group Papers - Records of CG meeting which cover COCOM and CHINCOM reports, reviews of control systems, trade policy and related matters.
2. COCOM Documents - Record of discussions on a variety of subjects such as statistics, enforcement, exceptions, IC/DV, ships and shipping, and trade agreements; negotiations on the strategic ratings of individual items on the several control lists; and periodic reports by the Chairman of COCOM to the Consultative Group.
3. COCOM Statistics (S Series) - Information in statistical form on export of strategic commodities by PC's to Eastern Europe, China, Austria and Finland. This series provides item numbers and descriptions, destination of exports, and weight and value of commodities.
4. COCOM Secretariat Documents (D Series) - This series transmits lists of document numbers, by subject matter.
5. COCOM Secretariat Papers (Documents) - These papers are prepared to bring outstanding and unresolved problems to the attention to the "unfortunate state of affairs in the matter of statistical reporting."
6. COCOM Sub-C Series - This series transmits to COCOM reports of the several COCOM Subcommittees, e.g., the Subcommittee on Definitions and Interpretation. (Note: reports of technical working groups are found in this and in the COCOM Document Series and concern specific categories of controlled items.)
7. CHINCOM Documents - Included in this series are records of discussions on various subjects within the competence of CHINCOM. Typical subjects are consideration of the several China lists (and commodity categories therein), shipping and bunkering controls, exception policy and exchange of information.

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(Appendix A cont'd.)

8. CHINCOM Statistics (CH-S Series) - Provides statistical information on the value of licenses issued each month by PC authorities covering export of controlled commodities to China, North Korea, Hong Kong and Macao.

9. CHINCOM Secretariat Papers - This series summarizes, for the benefit of delegates, earlier papers and discussions on particular problems. It provides lists of document numbers pertaining to discussions on specified controlled items.

10. CHINCOM Sub-C Series - The several technical working groups of CHINCOM transmit their findings on specific commodities (e.g., instruments, iron and steel products) in this series.

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